

heart response

... responding to the cry of the orphan and the widow



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**'Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this,
to look after orphans and widows in their distress..' (James 1:27)**

Note from the Secretary

I have just returned from visiting the Good Samaritan Church and Sanctuary Orphanage and had the privilege of meeting the children, workers and widows for the first time. The trip was a blessing and very eye-opening, the whole condition of the town struck me.

Ocna Mures is a town suffering from corruption and desolation, the whole town is bleak and uncared for. There are, of course many poor families living in and around the town, but the widows seem to struggle most of all. There is the high rate of unemployment, due to the mines collapsing and factories closing fifteen years ago. The roads across the town are terrible, cobbled and full of pot holes, the houses are small and there are many streets of grey, old apartment buildings.

But in this mess God is working. In the orphanage, in the feeding programmes and in the church there is so much love and so much hope. Elderly women told us that the only time they don't feel ill is when they are at church. Children are learning about God's love and singing His praise, teenagers are visiting the elderly and praying together - God has definitely brought hope into this place.

Joanna Chant

Charity Mission Statement

Heart Response is a Christian charity set up to follow Jesus' example of selfless love and support marginalised women and children.

Heart Response aims to respond practically, financially and prayerfully to Christian ministries, primarily in Romania, serving the needs of desperate women and children in their society.

Heart Response seeks to raise awareness of the people and projects they support, highlighting the difficulties, but also sharing stories of hope and encouragement.

Good Samaritan Church

This charity currently supports the ministries of the Good Samaritan Church in Ocna Mures, Romania. These include Sanctuary Orphanage, Gypsy children feeding programmes and work with women in local prisons.

Fundraising and Donations

Lots of amazing people have been very busy recently, with the coffee morning at Bradford Peverell raising £315, the quiz night raising £300 and hula hooping raising £60. We have received many generous donations, and have been able to send more parcels of clothes for the widows and older girls and have also had a donation of lots of football shirts for the boys, thanks to Jen and Chris for writing lots of letters to football clubs to get these.

Please continue to donate clothes as they are a continuous need, dark colour coats only for the women please as they don't like to wear bright colours because it draws attention. There is a particular need for new underwear for the teenage boys and wide women's shoes.

A Note from Chris - Football Shirts and Hula Hooping

"The whole way this project came about was after attending a talk given by Tish and through seeing the film that she had made of the orphans in Ocna Mures."

Myself and Jen felt that we needed to do something for the children and I happened to spot a part during the film of the children playing football and couldn't help but notice how happy and care free they looked. So we decided to do something unique and special and contacted various football clubs to see if they would kindly donate a couple of shirts for us to send to them. After 6 months we had a really overwhelming response and managed to get signed football shirts in total.

Jen had the idea of organising a charity hula hooping event to raise money to send out the parcel. The event was held on Saturday 17th May in Weymouth and I am happy to say we managed to raise the money needed to send the parcel out to the orphanage just before for the world cup started!

Many thanks to all the football teams who sent donations, to Jen for organising the hooping for Heart Response, to Cozz Lloyd for teaching us to hoop, a big thanks to all those that turned up to support us and a massive thank you to Tish for making us aware of the plight of the orphans in Ocna Mures".



Visit

For a trip lasting just ten days, we certainly saw a lot! A parcel of clothes for the girls' home and the boys' football shirts arrived while we were in Ocna Mures, so we were able to see the happy excited faces (especially of the boys!) as we gave them the presents.

We also had the privilege of meeting some of the widows that Heart Response gave food hampers to in the winter in their own homes, some of which were very small and basic. They shared their struggles with us explaining how hard it is to get around, buy food and medication, and their joy when they go to church or have a visit from the church workers.

Another ministry of church is to visit the old people living in an old hospital, which they do every fortnight. We were able to accompany them, and it was great to see some of the teenage girls coming along. The whole place seemed clinical, very basic and lonely. So many of the elderly have been abandoned in the hospital by the families and were in tears when they heard the church volunteer preaching.

The church has recently been given a property just opposite the church building that they will turn into a residential home for the elderly and a base for skills projects (sewing, hairdressing and woodwork). Once they have finished renovating the building they will be able to invite many more people from the town to participate.

We also visited 3 of the 4 feeding programmes run by the church, where the children are fed, have a Bible lesson and time to play and many take food home for their families. One of the children told us they like to come to the feeding programme to play as they have no toys at home.

On our way back to Cluj we visited another, separate Christian orphanage - Ecce-Homo- that nearly closed last year due to a lack of funding. We are hoping to begin sending them parcels of clothing and school supplies soon.



Events coming up....

Charity Walk – August - TBC

Barn dance – Autumn- TBC

If you would be able to organise an event to raise money please let us know, we would be very grateful!

Also if you'd like to host a talk, please get in touch.

Special Thank Yous

Thank you to Jen and Chris for sending lots of letters to collect the football shirts and for raising money to send them to the orphanage.

Thank you to Joan Schulke & friends for organising the coffee morning.

Thank you to Ellis & Jules Ford for organising a very enjoyable pub quiz.

You are all amazing and making a real difference to the poor in Ocna Mures.

Bags for sale!

We brought a small selection of bags made by the teenage girls on the sewing programme back from Romania with us, if you'd like one please contact us, suggested donation is £10.



Prayer Requests

Please pray for the different ministries of the Good Samaritan Church, especially the orphanage and feeding programmes. Please pray that God provides for them and that they continue to trust in Him.

The orphanage is in need of another worker, but cannot afford to fund one, please pray for continued strength as they are overworked, and for God to provide another worker.

Please pray for the children and families living in the gypsy villages, who are living in desperate poverty, many families completely reliant on the church for food.

Please pray for the elderly people in the hospital, many of them have been abandoned by their families.

Please pray for the renovation of a new building into workshops so that the sewing, hairdressing and woodwork schemes can expand to include local people in the town.

Please pray for Heart Response, that all the work we do would be for the Lord and that it would always be for His glory.

Become a 'Friend of Heart Response'

If you would like to receive regular information about heart response and get involved with fundraising or donating you can become an official 'Friend of heart response'. Please contact us for more details.